

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated August 18, 2006 contained a final rejection of claims 1-20. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 13 and 19. Claims 1-20 are in the case. Please consider the present amendment with the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This amendment is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

Record is made of a telephonic interview with Examiner K. Abrishamkar in December 2006 regarding claim 19. Specifically, during the telephonic interview, the Examiner suggested potential allowable language for claim 19. The above amendments reflect the suggestions made by the Examiner during the interview.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Henry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,856,800). The Office Action also rejected claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,856,800) in view of Hosein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,694).

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection based on the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

In particular, the Applicant contends that the references, alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of the Applicant's claimed invention.

However, in the above-mentioned interview, the Examiner stated that claim 19 would be allowable over the current cited references if rewritten as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, although the Applicant contends that all of the claims are allowable before the present amendment, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this case, the Applicant has added the suggested allowable limitations to claim 19 and also added these limitations to claims 1, 7 and 13. Hence, the Applicant submits that all of the independent claims are now allowable. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a) are moot.

Further, because the remaining dependent claims depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

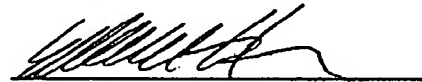
Serial No.: 10/003,138
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Thus, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be allowed based on the amendments and arguments. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (818) 885-1575.

Please note that all mail correspondence should continue to be directed to

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Respectfully submitted,
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